

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N//A

TAGS: FAO OCON, ETRD

SUBJ: 21ST SESSION OF THE FAO INTEGGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON RICE,
ROME, MARCH 13-17-, 1978

1. THE SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS
FROM 49 COUNTRIES AND 7 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. POLAND
ONLY BLOC 6 PARTICIPANT.

2. MR.I.HAQUE (PAKISTAN) WAS ELECTED CHARIMAN; MR.B.TELLO
QUIJANO(COLOMBIA) AND MR.P.LINARES MARQUEZ (SPAIN) FIRST AND SECOND
VICE-CHAIRMEN, RESPECTIVELY.

3. USDEL : H.LEE SCHATZ, FAS/USDA; ANTHONY CRUIT,AG ATTACHE
ROME.

4. THE GROUP:

(A) DETERMINED THAT EVEN WITH RECORD WORLD RICE PRODUCTION
IN 1977/78 AND LIKELY REDUCED TOTAL IMPORT DEMAND, THE SUPPLY/
DEMAND SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN TIGHT THROUGHOUT 1978;

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(B) AGREED THAT PRICES ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN FIRM OR INCREASE
SOMEWHAT DUERING THE REMAINDER OF THE FIRST HALF OF 1978, WHILE
PRICES DURING THE LAST HALF OF 1978 WILL DEPEND INCREASINGLY
ON WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR THE 1978/79 CROP.

(C) AGREED THAT RICE STOCKS WERE LOWIN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
AND THAT THE BULK OF CURRENT STOCK LEVELS ARE CONCENTRATED IN ONLY

A FEW COUNTRIES, MANY OF WHICH ARE NOT TRADITIONAL EXPORTERS,
I.E. JAPAN,KOREA,AND INDIA.

5. THIS SESSION OF THE GROUP WAS BASICALLY NOT CONTROVERSIAL,
BUT A DEFINITE THEMEPUT FORTH BY DELEGATES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
WAS THE STRONGER WORDING AND GUIDELINES SHOULD COME FORTH FROM
THE GROUP REGARDING THE INABILITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO FINANCE
PROGRAMS TO INCREASE RICE PRODUCTION .

6. THE GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT THE EXISTING GUIDELINES TO PROMOTE
INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN RICE BE RE-EXAMINED AND EXPANSION OF THE
GUIDELINES WILL LIKELY BE SUPPORTED BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
THIS RE-EXAMINING OF THE GUIDELINES BY THE GROUP MAY BE UNDERTAKEN
AS EARLY AS NEXT YEAR.

7. PHILIPPINES INVITED NEXT SESSION OF THE GROUP TO BE HELD
IN MANILA. THIS MOVE SUPPORTED STRONGLY BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
FINAL DECISION AS TO 1979 MEETING LOCATION LEFT TO SECRETARIAT
AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL, BUT OBVIOUS CHOICE OF LOCATION WILL BE
MANILA.GARDNER

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